AAA Committee on Public Policy (CoPP)
Annual Report, 2010

Current Members
Susan Greenhalgh (09-11), co-chair
Elisa Sobo (10-12), co-chair
Lenora Bohren (09-11)
Larry Zimmerman (09-11)
Pam Puntenney (10-12)

Ex-Officio
Virginia Dominguez, AAA President
Leith Mullings, AAA President-Elect

Incoming Members
Pam Puntenney (10-12)
Elisa Sobo (10-12)
Mary Gray (11)
Charles Briggs (11-12)

Outgoing Members
Monica Schoch-Spana
Julian Brash

AAA Staff Liaisons
Damon Dozier

Responsibilities - The mission of the Committee on Public Policy (CoPP) is to enhance participation of AAA entities and members in the area of public policy and to increase the visibility of contributions by anthropologists to policy debates and decisions. It's responsibilities are:

- To encourage sections and interest groups to develop policy-related activities that focus on particular areas of interest to their members, such as by interacting with section leadership and visiting business meetings, without infringing on the autonomy of these units;
- To enhance communication and cooperation between sections, interest groups, other elected committees, task forces, the AAA Public Affairs Office, and other parts of the AAA on policy issues that cross-cut particular domains, thereby encouraging links among their individual efforts. A key mechanism for realizing this goal is working with sections, interest groups, task forces, other AAA committees, and the AAA staff in organizing events for the AAA Annual Meeting, such as policy forums, particularly those that highlight issues that cross-cut specific policy domains;
- To enhance the visibility of anthropological contributions to public policy to audiences outside the AAA, including by creating opportunities for AAA members to enter into policy debates as well as to bring policy makers to AAA annual meetings and other sites in which they can interact with anthropologists;
- To provide models for AAA members and units of effective participation in public policy, such as by placing examples of effective policy interventions on the COPP Web site and in contributions to Anthropology News and helping organize AAA sessions in which members reflect on their policy interventions and sponsor workshops and other events in which AAA members can gain relevant skills;

Activities - Over the past year the Committee on Public Policy concentrated its efforts on five major issues:
1. **Working to Establish a New “Anthropology in Public Policy Award”** – CoPP worked all year to establish the AAA *Anthropology in Public Policy* award. The award is designed to honor anthropologists whose work has had a significant, positive influence upon the course of government decision-making and action. Public policy is broadly defined to include any level of government, from local to transnational, and to address the full range of contemporary human problems. The award will be conferred every other year in rotation with the Solon T. Kimball award; winners will be publicly announced at the AAA annual meetings. The award differs from Kimball award in that it seeks to recognize specific instances in which anthropological insights and analysis have produced more effective, more beneficent policies. The Kimball award, in comparison, seeks to advance anthropology's development as an applied science.

2. **Providing Input for AAA’s New Public Education Project** – At the request of AAA President-Elect Leith Mullings, CoPP submitted its ideas for a new public education project (to follow the wildly successful RACE: Are We So Different? public education project). After some discussion the committee decided on the topic of immigration/migration. The committee reported that anthropology, as the study of humankind, has long considered population movements and contact key arenas for study. Mullings is expected to announce a decision about the focus of the association’s new public education project in the near future.

3. **Forwarding Names for Appointed Slots on Committee** – Pursuant to the revised charge of the committee, CoPP was asked to forward names to President Dominguez for consideration for two new appointed slots on CoPP. The committee provided names and bios for John S. Petterson, Kevin Preister, Michael Montoya, and Charles Briggs. Ultimately, Charles Briggs and Mary Gray were appointed.

4. **Review Public Policy Sessions for Annual Meeting** – As it does every year, CoPP reviewed submissions for the public policy forums held during the course of the annual meeting. This year, CoPP selected two panels: “Militarization Beyond Projects, Publics Beyond Policy” and “Public Policy and Publics in Post-Katrina New Orleans: How Critical Topics Circulate and Shape Recovery Policy”.

5. **CoPP Section Survey** – A major project of the Committee during 2010 was to begin surveying the AAA Sections to learn their interests and activities in the area of public policy. Representatives of nine sections sent responses to detailed questionnaires, including suggestions on how CoPP could facilitate their activities and further their interactions with other AAA sections on policy issues. These responses were discussed at length by CoPP members and will be posted on the CoPP Website. In 2011 CoPP will continue this project in its attempt to reach all AAA sections.

**CoPP also contributed columns for AN:** CoPP helps fill the Anthropology News "Views on Policy" column. CoPP had four columns published in 2010. Via these columns, CoPP brought to the attention of AAA members and other AN readers the work of four professionals from a variety of fields who have worked on-the-ground in the policy arena, influencing both policy and other practitioners.